

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
OFFICE OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY
NEPA DETERMINATION**



RECIPIENT: Multiple (12 Projects)

STATE: DC

PROJECT TITLE : Multiple (12 Projects)

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number DE-FOA-0003308	Procurement Instrument Number FY24 SIPS FOA (12 Projects)	NEPA Control Number GFO-FOA-0003308-001	CID Number
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Based on my review of the information concerning the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (authorized under DOE Policy 451.1), I have made the following determination:

CX, EA, EIS APPENDIX AND NUMBER:

Description:

A9 Information gathering, analysis, and dissemination

Information gathering (including, but not limited to, literature surveys, inventories, site visits, and audits), data analysis (including, but not limited to, computer modeling), document preparation (including, but not limited to, conceptual design, feasibility studies, and analytical energy supply and demand studies), and information dissemination (including, but not limited to, document publication and distribution, and classroom training and informational programs), but not including site characterization or environmental monitoring. (See also B3.1 of appendix B to this subpart.)

B3.6 Small-scale research and development, laboratory operations, and pilot projects

Siting, construction, modification, operation, and decommissioning of facilities for smallscale research and development projects; conventional laboratory operations (such as preparation of chemical standards and sample analysis); and small-scale pilot projects (generally less than 2 years) frequently conducted to verify a concept before demonstration actions, provided that construction or modification would be within or contiguous to a previously disturbed or developed area (where active utilities and currently used roads are readily accessible). Not included in this category are demonstration actions, meaning actions that are undertaken at a scale to show whether a technology would be viable on a larger scale and suitable for commercial deployment.

Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide federal funding to twelve (12) projects selected under the Solar Energy Technologies Office Fiscal Year 2024 "Small Innovative Projects in Solar: Concentrating Solar Power and Photovoltaics (SIPS: CSP & PV)" Funding Opportunity Announcement (DE-FOA-0003308), or SIPS FOA. The following awardees would develop strategies and processes to improve various aspects of both concentrated solar and photovoltaic systems:

- GE Vernova Advanced Research (DE-EE0011503)
- Boise State University (DE-EE0011504)
- University of Houston (DE-EE0011505)
- Rice University (DE-EE0011506)
- University of New Mexico (DE-EE0011507)
- University of Arizona (DE-EE0011508)
- University of Florida (DE-EE0011509)
- University of California San Diego (DE-EE0011510)
- University of Miami, Florida (DE-EE0011511)
- Georgia Tech Research (DE-EE0011512)
- Purdue University (DE-EE0011513)
- Arizona State University (DE-EE0011514).

The types of activities associated with the SIPS FOA projects would primarily include data analysis, computer modeling, software development, laboratory testing, and small-scale research and development. All activities would take place in laboratory settings or facilities purpose-built for the type of research being performed. None of the proposed projects would involve the interruption of power services or physical modifications to energy infrastructure. No change in the use, mission, or operation of existing facilities would arise out of these efforts.

DOE has considered the scale, duration, and nature of proposed activities to determine potential impacts on resources, including those of an ecological, historical, cultural, and socioeconomic nature. DOE does not anticipate impacts on these resources which would be considered significant or require DOE to consult with other agencies or stakeholders.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination.

Include the following condition in the financial assistance agreement:

This NEPA Determination applies to the following twelve (12) projects selected under the SIPS FOA (DE-FOA-0003308). This NEPA Determination does NOT apply to any other selections under DE-FOA-0003308.

- GE Vernova Advanced Research (DE-EE0011503)
- Boise State University (DE-EE0011504)
- University of Houston (DE-EE0011505)
- Rice University (DE-EE0011506)
- University of New Mexico (DE-EE0011507)
- University of Arizona (DE-EE0011508)
- University of Florida (DE-EE0011509)
- University of California San Diego (DE-EE0011510)
- University of Miami, Florida (DE-EE0011511)
- Georgia Tech Research (DE-EE0011512)
- Purdue University (DE-EE0011513)
- Arizona State University (DE-EE0011514).

Notes:

Solar Energy Technologies Office
NEPA review completed by Andrew McClellan, 10/7/2024

FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATIONS

The proposed action (or the part of the proposal defined in the Rationale above) fits within a class of actions that is listed in Appendix A or B to 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D. To fit within the classes of actions listed in 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B, a proposal must be one that would not: (1) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, or similar requirements of DOE or Executive Orders; (2) require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators), but the proposal may include categorically excluded waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment actions or facilities; (3) disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that preexist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases; (4) have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources, including, but not limited to, those listed in paragraph B(4) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B; (5) involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, governmentally designated noxious weeds, or invasive species, unless the proposed activity would be contained or confined in a manner designed and operated to prevent unauthorized release into the environment and conducted in accordance with applicable requirements, such as those listed in paragraph B(5) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B.

There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposed action that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal.

The proposed action has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion. This proposal is not connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(1)), is not related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(7)), and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211 concerning limitations on actions during preparation of an environmental impact statement.

The proposed action is categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:

Electronically
Signed By: Andrew Montano

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 10/9/2024

FIELD OFFICE MANAGER DETERMINATION

- Field Office Manager review not required
- Field Office Manager review required

BASED ON MY REVIEW I CONCUR WITH THE DETERMINATION OF THE NCO :

Field Office Manager's Signature: _____
Field Office Manager

Date: _____